

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07
NSC-05 EPG-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02
OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 IGA-02 /081 W
-----066868 060905Z /10

R 060623Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7842

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 4263

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: ECIN, ASEAN, MY

SUBJECT: GOM VIEW OF ASEAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION

REF: SINGAPORE 2665

1. UNLIKE DISAPPOINTMENT FELT BY SINGAPOREAN OFFICIALS AT PACE OF ASEAN COOPERATION, GOM OFFICIALS IN BOTH ECONOMIC AND FOREIGN MINISTRIES BELIEVE THAT MATTERS ARE PROCEEDING AT APPROPRIATE RATE. FOLLOWING RECENT ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS MEETING IN SINGAPORE, EMBOFF CALL SEPARATELY ON OFFICIALS IN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) AND MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY (MTI). MFA OFFICIAL, RAJA MANSOR, ASEAN PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY, INDICATED THAT HIS MINISTRY VERY PLEASED AT WAY ASEAN PROGRESSING. HE FELT THAT INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS PROCEEDING AT MEASURED PACE AND THAT AGREEMENT TO CONSIDER 71 ITEMS FOR TRADE CONCESSIONS, ALTHOUGH MODEST, WAS A STEP IN THE RIGHTDIRECTION. HE STATED THAT HE FELT THAT ONLY MEMBER OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ASEAN THAT DISSATISFIED AT PRESENT TIME IS SINGAPORE BUT THAT GOS REALIZED THAT THEIR COUNTRY MORE DEVELOPED THAN OTHER ASEAN STATES AND THAT THEY MUST SHOW PATIENCE. RAJA MANSOR NOTED THAT SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM SEEMED TO BE TAKING A LOWER-KEY APPROACH IN PUBLIC TO QUESTION OF ASEAN AND HE ATTRIBUTED THIS PARTLY TO GOM FOREIGN MINISTER'S RECENT TRIP TO HANOI.

2. MTI OFFICIAL (SABBARUDDIN CHIK, DIRECTOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE DIVISION) GAVE ESSENTIALLY SIMILAR VIEW BUT ADDED THAT MALAYSIA WAS BEING VERY CAREFUL TO COORDINATE HER POLICIES WITH INDONESIA AND WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO. HE INDICATED THAT THE FEASIBILITY STUDY ON MALAYSIA'S INDUSTRIAL PROJECT WOULD BE COMPLETED IN OCTOBER BUT THAT PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS WERE THAT PROJECT WAS PROMISING.

3. COMMENT: VIEWS EXPRESSED ABOVE ARE NOT PARTICULARLY SURPRISING GIVE MALAYSIAN TENDENCY TO VIEW ASEAN MORE AS MATTER OF FORM THAN SUBSTANCE. EXISTENCE OF ORGANIZATION IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN RAPID PROGRESS ON ANY GIVEN ISSUE. BECAUSE OF HEAVY VALUE MALAYSIANS PLACE ON THEIR TIES WITH INDONESIA, THEY NOT PREPARED TO PRESSURE INDONESIANS INTO MOVING ANY FASTER ON TRADE MATTERS THAN GOI WILLING.
MILLER

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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